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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| | Vessey | , et al |) | |
| Serial | No: | 09/955,409 |) | RECE |
| Filed: | | 09/12/01 |) | FEE |
| For: | System | and Method for Liquid Handling |) | 2002 |
| | Param | eters Optimization |) | IC 1700 |
| | • | and Method for Liquid Handling |)) | RECEIVE FEB 1 9 2002 TC 1700 |

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicant hereby voluntarily discloses the items listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents. Copies of items A - C are enclosed herewith.

Applicant further reserves the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the listed information should they be applied as references, and/or to prove that some of the cited information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that some of the cited information may not be enabling for the teachings they purport to offer. This statement further should not be construed as a representation that an exhaustive search has been made, or that the information cited herewith is material, or that there does not exist information more material to the examination of the present Application. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the information submitted herein. On the contrary, the Examiner is requested to conduct an independent and thorough review of the information, and to form independent opinions as to their significance.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return copies of the enclosed PTO-1449 and to indicate in the official file wrapper of the above-identified patent application that each item of the cited information has been considered.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to account no. 09-0528.

Date: 1/4/02

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Docket No.:T081 1010



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| INI | FORM | MAT | TION DISCL | OSURE | CITATION | Applicant Vessey, et al. | | | | | |
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| citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include cop EXAMINER'S SIGNATURE: | | | | | | DATE CONSIDERED: | | | | | |
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